

July 14, 1970

Mr. Jerome M. Eisenberg, Director
Royal-Athena Galleries
1066 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10028

Dear Jerry:

I finally have had an opportunity to show your photographs of the Greek head to some of the people here, and there is much enthusiasm for it. I now am writing to ask if you can give us about two months while we accumulate photographs of some other objects, as the desire is to present a group of objects at one time to our patron. That seems to be the procedure which she likes and which has worked well in the past. In other words, we are going to recommend the purchase of the head, and some other material, too, at the same time. We have to wait until all is in hand and until her return from her vacation to do this.

Thus, will you try to hold that head in reserve for us, if you can, until mid-September. Perhaps if I am lucky I can get an answer on it before then. I am really very anxious to see us get started with the classical collection, and I think that would be a good piece to begin with.

It was pleasant seeing you again. With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Muriel B. Christison
Associate Director

MBC:HAR

Royal - Athena Galleries

1066 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028


July 16th, 1970

Mrs. Muriel B. Christison
Krannert Art Museum
University of Illinois
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Dear Mrs. Christison,

Thank you for your letter of July 14th. I am very pleased to hear that you are interested in the 4th century Greek marble head. Unfortunately I can not reserve the head at this moment for, as I believe I told you last month, the director of a Midwestern Museum had already been offered the head, and as of my telephone conversation with him last week, he had hoped that he could take some action on it by the end of this month. I would be pleased, however, at that time, if I do not have a favorable decision on its purchase by him, to then give you the option until the middle of September. I believe he has been having a problem getting all the trustees together for a meeting; perhaps his loss can be your gain. You certainly could not start off with a finer piece for your Classical collection.

With very best personal wishes,


Jerome M. Eisenberg
Director

JME:pvv

Royal = Athena Galleries

1066 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028

734-3284

July 28th, 1970

Mrs. Muriel B. Christison
Kramert Art Museum
University of Illinois
Champaign, Illinois 61820


Dear Mrs. Christison,

The Greek head is now being held in reserve for you until September 15th. The other museum just wrote to me: "it does not appear that we will be able to do anything this summer about ... the Bryaxis head.. .. Perhaps in the Fall we will be able to come back to this." So here is your opportunity to pick-up a truly major work of classical Greek art.

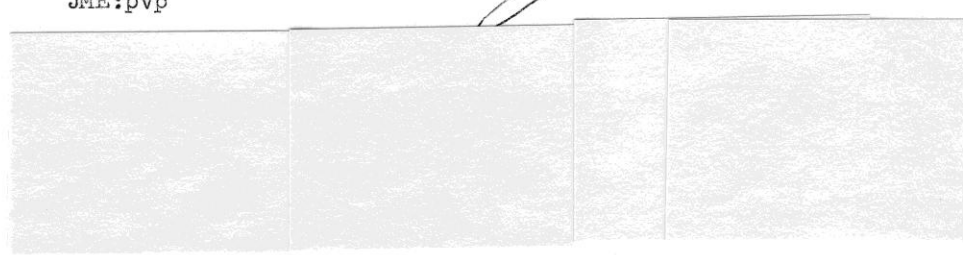
I am quite certain that Prof. Langlotz would be more than willing to publish it for you, or, at least give you permission to quote from his correspondence to me giving his reasons for its attribution to Bryaxis.

I do hope that it will be possible to take action on it by the end of August, as I plan to leave on a trip by August 28th.

Very sincerely,


Jerome M. Eisenberg
Director

JME:pvv



Royal = Athena Galleries

1066 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10028

August 13, 1970

Mrs. Muriel B. Christison
Krannert Art Museum
Champaign, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Christison:

Thank you for your letter of August 10 and your telephone call of August 12. As per your request, I am sending the Bryaxis head today on approval by REA Air Express. The approval invoice is enclosed as are three more sets of photographs.

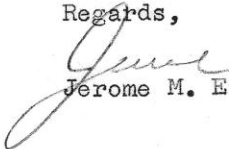
I am also enclosing my own translation of Dr. Langlotz's letter. While it is not very polished, it is a nearly literal translation and should serve the purpose.

As I mentioned yesterday, I will donate an object to the museum if the head is purchased - one that we will mutually select from a number of choices.

While my trip plans are a bit vague at the moment, I hope to leave by the 30th and will be back by about Sept. 14th. My secretary, Patricia Cardozo, will be here, however, and can contact me at any time if a problem should arise.

Good luck!

Regards,


Jerome M. Eisenberg

Enclosures

August 14, 1970

Mr. Jerome M. Eisenberg
Royal-Athena Galleries
1066 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10028

Dear Jerry:

Thank you very much for getting the translation and the additional photographs to me so promptly. I will certainly let you hear as soon as we have any definite decision on the head, which, as I mentioned before, should be in September. If we reach a decision before you return, I will certainly let your secretary know, so that she can send you the news when she writes to you. Have a good trip, and best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Muriel B. Christison
Associate Director

MBC:HAR

THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM

17901 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265

(313) 451-1000

401 Architecture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Ill. 61801

Dr. Jiri Frel
J. Paul Getty Museum
Malibu, California 90265

Dear Dr. Frel:

Here is a photograph of the Krannert head about which I spoke to you in Philadelphia. There is more detail in the face than is visible here. The cheekbones are softly modeled, and there is the typical fourth century horizontal line across the forehead about halfway between the eyebrows and the hairline. All of the carving is fairly coarse. The dimensions are approximately 24 cm. from crown to end of beard and 18 cm maximum width.

As you see, the cutting is invisible from the front, and I doubt that Langlotz knew it was there - at least his description of the head makes no mention of it. The cutting runs from about the apex of the crown back and down to the left side of the head; it is not flat, but has an irregular surface. You asked whether the cutting was ancient, and this I cannot tell, but the surface looks just like the rest of the surface of the piece. There are two holes, one near the apex and the other near the lower edge of the cutting. It has a distinct slant, which is what made me think the head must have been fastened to a sloping frame of some sort. Certainly it is not for the attachment of any kind of headgear.

You said you did not think the head came from a stele, but one of my colleagues tells me he has seen in the National Museum in Athens a group of large stelai from Rhamnous in which the figures project up into the pedimental area. Do you think that is a possibility for our head? The back shows no trace of attachment. The piece is carved fully in the round, but the back is much more cursorily done than the front, suggesting that the head was so placed that the back was invisible, or little visible.

If you are interested, I can send you more and better photographs, but would have to ask you to send them back since they are my only copies. You are welcome to keep this if you wish.

I hope you are enjoying California and wish you you all success in your new position. I look forward to seeing you at subsequent meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Perkins

THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM

17985 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265

(213) GL 4-1003

February 7, 1973

Prof. Ann Perkins
401 Architecture
University of Illinois
Urbana, Ill. 61801

Dear Prof. Perkins:

Thank you very much for your kind letter and the photograph. I remember the head very well from Eisenberg and, of course, I know the heads from Rhamnous you mentioned in the letter, and there are many other large grave stelai with life-size bearded heads. Nevertheless, your head can't come from a grave stele for several reasons. It is not just the type; the ethos, Stimmung is completely different. It is rather in the category of divine images. Compare the Asklepios from Melos in the British Museum, for example. Also the workmanship of the back doesn't correspond to grave stelai at all. A further study of your piece, which is a very good original of about 330, would be desirable. Langlotz's suggestion of Bryaxis can't be taken seriously.

California is pleasant and I enjoy the job very much.

Sincerely yours,

Jiri Frel

Jiri Frel

JF/ak

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

BOSTON · MASSACHUSETTS · 02115

Department of Classical Art

18 August 1978

Dr Muriel B. Christison,
Director, Kramm Art Museum,
500 Peabody Drive
University of Illinois
Champaign
Illinois 61820

Dear Dr. Christison,

Enclosed is the outline of illustrations for a non-profit, "scholarly" survey of Greek and Roman sculpture in North American museums, to be published jointly by the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Department of Classical Art, Museum of Fine Arts. No. 39 is your bearded head of a god or elder from a votive or funerary monument. I would like to reproduce the black and white glossy photo long in my possession and will naturally send your Museum a copy of the book. I have known the head since its days in a Swiss collection and later in England.

Could I ask the Museum's inventory/accession number and donor or fund for the head. And if it has been published in your Bulletin I would be most appreciative of the reference. I have Sotheby Sale, 1 July 1969, no. 117, pl. p. 63; and Münzen und Medaillen, Basel, Sale, 5 Oct. 1963, no. 178, pl. 63 for this splendid Greek original.

With thanks in advance, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Cornelius Vermeule
Curator